



April 2009

TO: Washington State Student Services Commission & Councils  
FROM: Student Services Team  
Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges  
RE: 2009 Spring State Board Report

### **2009 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following bills have survived the second policy and budget cut-offs and await possible action on their respective floors. Budget bills and bills considered "necessary to implement the budget" are exempt from early cut-off deadlines. A link to more details is provided for each bill that made it through the fiscal cut-off. Find complete bill documents at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>.

### **Educational Programs**

#### **Dual Enrollment**

[SHB 2119](#) Expanding dual credit opportunities, sponsored by **Rep. Deb Wallace**, D-Vancouver.

#### **High School Completion**

[SHB 1758](#) Expanding options for students to earn high school diplomas, sponsored by **Rep. Dave Quall**, D-Mount Vernon.

### **Technology**

[SHB 1946](#) Regarding higher education online technology, sponsored by **Rep. Reuven Carlyle**, D-Seattle.

[SSB 5043](#) Convening a workgroup to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information, sponsored by **Sen. Derek Kilmer**, D-Gig Harbor.

### **Governance**

[SSB 5007](#), sponsored by **Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe**, D-Bothell, and [SHB 1328](#), sponsored by **Rep. Reuven Carlyle**, D-Seattle, both allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.

### **Student Services**

[SHB 1025](#), sponsored by **Rep. Mike Armstrong**, R-Wenatchee, and [SSB 5778](#), **Sen. Eric Oemig**, D-Kirkland, both requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.

[HB 1986](#) Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college, sponsored by **Rep. Bob Hasegawa**, D-Seattle.

[SB 5720](#) Including stepchildren in tuition waivers for children of veterans and National Guard members, sponsored by **Sen. Mike Hewitt**, R-Walla Walla.

[HB 1474](#) Changing border county opportunity program provisions, sponsored by **Rep. Ed Orcutt**, R-Kalama.

[HB 1487](#) Regarding resident student classification, sponsored by **Rep. Ross Hunter**, D-Bellevue.

### **Tuition and Financial Aid**

[SHB 2021](#) Revitalizing student financial aid, sponsored by **Rep. Phyllis Gutiérrez Kenney**, D-Seattle.

[SB 5044](#) State work study program, sponsored by **Sen. Derek Kilmer**, D-Gig Harbor.

[2SHB 1355](#) Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students, **Rep. Tim Probst**, D-Vancouver.

[SSB 5776](#) Student fees and charges, **Sen. Joe McDermott**, D-Burien.

### **Unemployment Insurance**

[SSB 5963](#), improving economic security through unemployment compensation, sponsored by **Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles**, D-Seattle.

### **Workforce, Economic Development**

[SB 5554](#) Regarding the job skills program, sponsored by **Sen. Derek Kilmer**, D-Gig Harbor, is in House Higher Education Committee.

[SSB 5809](#) Revising unemployment compensation and workforce training provisions, sponsored by **Sen. James Hargrove**, D-Hoquiam.

[SHB 2071](#) Concerning education for parents of needy families, sponsored by **Rep. Tami Green**, D-Lakewood.

[SHB 2227](#) Enacting the evergreen jobs act, sponsored by **Rep. Tim Probst**, D-17th District.

### **SYSTEM REPORTS**

#### **2008-09 Campus Safety and Security Report, SB 6328 Campus Safety Self Assessment**

The Governor requested legislation in the **2008 Regular Session** with both [HB 2507](#) (Preparedness and Mapping) and [SB 6328](#) (Campus Safety) to begin to address significant changes on our campuses to ensure that safety plans were comprehensive, evaluated, and exercised. In addition, the bills directed improvements in both the publication and sharing of information. 18 colleges (*Bellingham, Cascadia, Centralia, Clark, Columbia Basin, Edmonds, Grays Harbor, Green River, Highline, Olympic, Peninsula, Renton, Skagit, South Puget Sound, Walla Walla, Wenatchee Valley, Whatcom, and Yakima Valley*) are currently working with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in implementing the first phase of the Critical Incident Planning and Mapping system created under RCW 36.28A.060 to provide first responders the critical information they need to respond to criminal or terrorist acts. SB 6328 directed institutions of higher education to self-assess their plans by October 30, 2008 and to provide information to the State Board. These reports will be updated annually and reported to the Governor and higher education committees of the House and Senate by December 31<sup>st</sup> in each even numbered year beginning in 2010.

On October 20, 2008, the 34 community and technical colleges established an ad-hoc working group on safety and security that will have an oversight role on campus safety and emergency management. The group will have a direct reporting relationship through the WACTC Presidents Capital Committee. This committee will work in coordination with the Center of Excellence for Homeland Security and with the State Board's capital budget director. The current structure of the committee is to have three working groups that look at Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Best Practices. Information from the committees will be available and posted under the Homeland Security website at: <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/HomelandSecurity/resources/campus-safety.php>. The site will also provide additional resources, examples, and current links to relevant reports and publications on campus safety. For more information, contact Tom Henderson, Director, Capital Programs at [thenderson@sbctc.edu](mailto:thenderson@sbctc.edu).

#### **Access and Success for People of Color in Washington Community and Technical Colleges: Progress Report.**

For over a decade, State Board staff has provided periodic reports on access and success indicators for students of color, and staff and faculty diversity. This latest report includes Student Achievement data and sixth year success rates for students of color. Read the full report at: [http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research\\_reports/resh09-2\\_students\\_of\\_color.pdf](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research_reports/resh09-2_students_of_color.pdf).

## Research Reports

SBCTC researchers engage in applied research and analysis for the purpose of information, the policy decision making of the State Board staff and the State Board members. These same applied research and analysis efforts also inform the policy making in other agencies, the Governor's staff and the legislature. The staff reports are also often requested by the faculty and staff of the community and technical colleges. These reports are generally available at:

[http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/d\\_index.aspx](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/d_index.aspx)

## Community and technical college system mission study taskforce

The purpose of this study is to:

- Understand how well the community and technical college system is serving the people of Washington State in all three mission areas: academic transfer, workforce education and basic skills
- Understand future needs and strategic challenges based on demographic, economic, financial and cultural trends over the next 20 years.
- Identify emerging, effective means of delivering education to adults from our own experiences and from the successes of others.
- Make policy recommendations to the State Board about the future size and shape of the college system, including principles about future investment of resources.

More information about the mission study taskforce, including meeting agenda, minutes, and summary of findings to date is available on the SBCTC website at: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/g-missionstudytaskforce.aspx>

## SYSTEM DESIGN STUDY (HECB)

The Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington, approved by the Legislature in 2008, calls for increasing degree production in Washington by 40 percent by the end of the next decade. To accomplish this, a new set of planning parameters is needed for Washington higher education. The HECB's system design study will help the state determine how to meet this demand in the most strategic manner possible.

- New guidelines to determine when and where to locate new campuses and higher education centers are needed.
- Recommendations for any new investments in eLearning that could help expand access to higher education are needed.
- Initiatives targeted at under-served areas and populations also will be needed.

More information about the System Design Study is available on the HECB website at:

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/SystemDesignStudyPage1.asp>.

## CHECKOUTCOLLEGE.COM UPDATE

We now have a process in place to more quickly handle adding and removing programs on [CheckOutACollege.com](http://CheckOutACollege.com). In the near future an online administrative web form will be built to allow colleges to log in and update URLs -- but not programs -- on their own. *This will be a huge benefit*, allowing colleges to edit URLs as necessary to provide the most appropriate URL for your professional-technical program titles.

In the meantime, colleges are encouraged to pull up their program list on the College Search page and review their links. It would provide a more valuable service to site visitors to make the program links go directly to the program description. Many still point to college home pages instead of specific program/degree pages.

If you find **URLs** you'd like changed now, please send program title and new URL directly to Angela French at [afrench@sbctc.edu](mailto:afrench@sbctc.edu).

- When a college has a NEW or DELETED professional-technical program, *it needs to first be approved by Pat Ward, Workforce Education*, to be included in the CheckOutACollege.com database. Angela is not authorized to add, delete, or revise prof-tech program names unless they are reflected on the master inventory.
- College Transfer forms and questions should come to Sherry Reichert at [sreichert@sbctc.edu](mailto:sreichert@sbctc.edu).

In addition, links to [HOUSING](#) have been added to the CheckOutACollege.com campus contacts page for the following colleges: Big Bend, Edmonds, Green River, Skagit Valley, Wenatchee Valley, Yakima Valley

### **OPPORTUNITY GRANT**

Opportunity Grants and Potential per College Funding for 2009-11

June 30, 2009 wraps up the three year Opportunity Grant Pilot Program and year two of the biennium for the "New" Opportunity Grant Program. The program has seen tremendous growth and success, especially this year. At this time we are awaiting Board approval to earmark the \$23m biennial Opportunity Grant allocation, expected in the June meeting. For planning purposes, please use your college's current allocation. Because it is highly unlikely during this economic time that additional monies will be added to the Opportunity Grant, there will not be opportunities to request additional funds to begin the year. Potential additional funds may become available next January/February from those colleges not meeting retention minimums and/or targets. These potential de-obligated funds would be re-allocated on a competitive formula basis during winter quarter.

There is a high probability that the \$1m Workbased Learning Tuition allocation will be moved to the Opportunity Grant Program, adding \$29,412 to each college.

### **TRANSFER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY UPDATE**

Last legislative session, an omnibus transfer student bill (2007-08, House Bill E2SHB 2783) was drafted, passed both houses, but was vetoed by the Governor. Instead, the following directive was given to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB):

The HECB must convene a work group to develop a list of institutional policy statements about transfer and articulation for students that have earned a Transfer Associate Degree under the direct transfer agreement. The list must be easily accessible on each institution's website as well as in admissions, transfer, and recruiting offices. The list must include institutional policy regarding admission to an institution, the number of credits that will generally transfer, the academic requirements fulfilled by the transfer degree, the acceptance of credit earned in dual enrollment and accelerated programs, and the acceptance of credits from non-regionally accredited institutions. The list must also include advance knowledge of selection criteria for limited access programs. The transfer student bill of rights must be implemented by September 2009.

The final draft ( December 16, 2008) of the Transfer Student Bill of Rights has been reviewed and approved by the workgroup, HECB, ICRC, JAOG, and the AAG. The draft now awaits review by the presidents at the next WACTC meeting.

### **Transfer Rights and Responsibilities (Draft)**

#### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students have the right to fair and equitable treatment by the colleges and universities of Washington, as outlined in the guidelines below.

1. Students have the right to clear, accurate, and current information about their transfer admission requirements, transfer admission deadlines, degree requirements, and transfer policies that include course equivalencies.
2. Transfer and direct-entry students have the right to expect comparable standards for regular admission to programs and comparable program requirements.
3. Students have the right to seek clarification regarding their transfer evaluation and may request the reconsideration of any aspect of that evaluation. In response, the college will follow established practices and processes for reviewing its transfer credit decisions.
4. Students who encounter other transfer difficulties have the right to seek resolution. Each institution will have a defined process for resolution that is published and readily available to students.
5. Students have the responsibility to complete all materials required for admission and to submit the application on or before the published deadlines.

6. Students have the responsibility to plan their course of study by referring to the specific published degree requirements of the college or academic program in which they intend to earn a bachelor's degree.
7. When a student changes a major or degree program, the student assumes full responsibility for meeting the new requirements.

### **College and University Rights and Responsibilities**

Colleges and universities have the right and authority to determine program requirements and course offerings in accordance with their institutional mission and to communicate and publish these requirements and course offerings to students and the public.

1. Colleges and universities have the responsibility to provide clear, accurate, and current information about their transfer admission requirements, transfer admission deadlines, degree requirements, and transfer policies that include course equivalencies.
2. Colleges and universities have the responsibility to answer students' questions about transfer issues and provide students with opportunities for appropriate follow-up.
3. Colleges and universities have the responsibility to provide comparable standards for transfer and direct-entry students for regular admission to programs. Transfer and direct-entry students must satisfy comparable program requirements.

Colleges and universities have the responsibility to communicate admission and transfer related decisions to students in writing (electronic or paper), and include information about student transfer rights and responsibilities.

### **TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

**eBrowser Spring newsletter:** Coming mid-April! Topics for this issue include Elluminate Lessons Learned, Degree Audit, National Student Clearinghouse tools and more.

**ANGEL:** Most classrooms supported by WAOL are moving to ANGEL for Spring 09. Here are a few reminders as the quarter begins:

- For non-shared courses, colleges now choose the dates. Students are given access to the classroom one week before instruction begins.
- For shared courses, the classroom open date is March 26, and instruction begins April 2
- Students will be directed to WAOL ANGEL from the WAOL web site <http://www.waol.org>
- WAOL has also created a Blackboard classroom for each class to which all students have been attached. We inserted into each class an announcement directing students to WAOL ANGEL.
- If the instructor intends to continue to teach in Blackboard for Spring quarter, the INSTRUCTOR must post a message in his/her ANGEL classroom to let students know they must go to Blackboard. We have information on how to do that on this page: [http://waol.org/faculty\\_and\\_staff/angelSupport.aspx](http://waol.org/faculty_and_staff/angelSupport.aspx)
- WAOL's Blackboard contract ends June 30, so no one will be allowed to begin SUMMER 09 on WAOL Blackboard.

Resources for your faculty and students:

- Technical support is available 24x7 for faculty and students here [http://www.waol.org/general\\_info/help\\_desk.aspx](http://www.waol.org/general_info/help_desk.aspx)
- The WAOL web site has a Week Zero for students to learn ANGEL [http://www.waol.org/current\\_students/weekZero.aspx](http://www.waol.org/current_students/weekZero.aspx)
- The WAOL web site also has resources for instructors: [http://www.waol.org/faculty\\_and\\_staff/angelSupport.aspx](http://www.waol.org/faculty_and_staff/angelSupport.aspx)
- Instructors who want personal assistance with ANGEL can work with
  - Boyoung Chae [bchae@sbctc.edu](mailto:bchae@sbctc.edu)
  - Jesse Sims [jsims@lcc.ctc.edu](mailto:jsims@lcc.ctc.edu)

**BUDGET UPDATE****Economic Stimulus (new website!)**

Washington's community and technical colleges have an unprecedented opportunity to increase access and achievement for hundreds of students through the American Recovery and Investment Act (ARRA). The Governor is pursuing a coordinated strategy between her office and the Legislature, state agencies, the SBCTC, college districts, and partners. While the implementation outline ARRA is still unfolding at the federal level, the SBCTC office is working with Gov. Chris Gregoire and partner agencies to use these funds to maximize delivery of quality educational programs and services.

Washington Recovery website: [recovery.wa.gov](http://recovery.wa.gov)

Federal Recovery website: [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov)

The ARRA SBCTC website will be updated as new information becomes available. The SBCTC contact is Susan Howson, assistant director of finance, 360.704.4396 or [showson@sbctc.edu](mailto:showson@sbctc.edu).

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**2009-11 Proposed Budgets****Senate Proposed 2009-11 Operating Budget for the CTC System** (system-wide email dated 03/30/09)

- **Reduction** to the CTC operating budget:
  1. The Senate budget reduces the CTC 2009-11 biennial operating budget by \$144.1 million, or 9.4%, from the maintenance level budget. (This compares to the \$100 million, or 6.5%, cut in the Governor's proposal.)
  2. Of the \$144.1 million, \$64.2 million is the cut you are already taking this year (\$32.1 million for two years). The remaining \$79.9 million cut is spread evenly between the two fiscal years. So the total cut each year next biennium is \$72.06 million.
  3. The Senate cuts another \$35 million in state funds but backfills this cut with \$35 million in Federal Stimulus funds. The net impact of this fund swap on the colleges is no change in funding.
- **Tuition increases** are limited to 5% in the first year and another 5% in the second year for resident undergraduates (7% per year for applied baccalaureate program upper division courses). With tuition yields added back (on a system-wide basis), the net cut for the 2009-11 biennium is calculated at 7.2% (compared to the Governor's net cut of 4.3%).
- **Fee authority** is provided to the colleges with no specific limit: The language states: ". . .by amounts judged reasonable and necessary by the trustees."
- The **enrollment target** for the CTC system is increased by 1,000 FTES for additional worker retraining in FY2010 and then returns in FY2011 back down to the current year budgeted level of 139,237.
- Maintenance and Operations Funding is provided for a smaller list of college facilities and completely excludes any facilities built using Certificates of Participation.
- Budget **provisos** include:
  1. Worker Retraining at current level plus an additional \$4.7 million for 1,000 additional FTES in FY2010.
  2. Job Skills program at its current level.
  3. \$7 million of existing funds to expand the student achievement initiative.
  4. Language that encourages colleges to minimize cuts to academic programs, and to focus efforts on high-demand enrollments. (no specific targets, just encouragement language).
  5. Bellevue CC to offer one more applied baccalaureate degree within Bellevue's existing funds (no new money)
  6. State Board shall facilitate upper division enrollments at Olympic College within existing resources (no new money)
  7. SBCTC must work with the HECB and OFM to revise traditional performance targets in light of budget reductions.
- Funding for **health benefits** is increased by less than the expected rate of inflation. The Senate proposed rates are \$745 per employee per month for FY2010 and \$768 per employee per month for FY2011.

- **Retirement contributions** for employees and employers are reduced. TRS and PERS Employer retirement contributions are reduced to the following rates:
  1. PERS: 5.25%
  2. TRS: 6.17%
- No **salary increases** are provided to any employee groups (except standard step increases earned by classified employees)

**House Proposed 2009-11 Operating Budget for the CTC System** (system-wide email 03/31/09)

- **Reduction** to the CTC operating budget:
  1. The House budget reduces the CTC 2009-11 biennial operating budget by \$219.1 million, or 14.3%, from the maintenance level budget. (This compares to the \$100 million, or 6.5% cut in the Governor's proposal and the \$144.1 million or 9.4% cut in the Senate proposal)
  2. Of the \$219.1 million, \$64.2 million is the cut you are already taking this year (\$32.1 million for two years). The remaining \$154.9 million cut is **not** spread evenly between the two fiscal years. \$42.4 million is in the first year and \$112.5 million is in the second year. Therefore, the system would bow wave an 18.9% cut in future years.
  3. The House cuts another \$38.2 million in state funds but backfills this cut with \$38.2 million in Federal Stimulus funds. The net impact of this fund swap on the colleges is no change in funding.
- **Tuition increases** are limited to 7% in the first year and another 7% in the second year for resident undergraduates (10% per year for applied baccalaureate program upper division courses). With tuition yields added back (on a system-wide basis), the net cut for the 2009-11 biennium (on average) is calculated at 11.1% (compared to the Governor's net cut of 4.3% and the Senate's net cut of 7.2%).
- **Fee authority** is provided to the colleges with no specific limit: The language mirrors that of the Senate and it states: ". . . by amounts judged reasonable and necessary by the trustees." The House budget also recognizes fee revenues from Running Start students, consistent with 2SHB-2119.
- The **enrollment target** for the CTC system remains constant at the current level of 139,237 for each fiscal year of the next biennium.
- Maintenance and Operations Funding is provided for an even smaller list of college facilities than the Senate proposal, and completely excludes any facilities built using Certificates of Participation.
- Budget **provisos** include:
  1. Worker Retraining at current level (no enhancements).
  2. Job Skills program at its current level.
  3. \$3.5 million of existing funds to expand the student achievement initiative.
  4. Colleges must continue to produce 22,000 completers in job preparatory and apprenticeship programs.
  5. Each college must develop a plan to convert part-time faculty to full-time faculty so that up to 75% of academic teaching assignments are held by full-time, tenure track faculty. Colleges shall submit the plans to the State Board and the State Board shall report to the legislature on December 1, 2010.
  6. \$2.25 million is provided to enhance on-line distance learning and open courseware technology.
- Funding for **health benefits** is increased so that employees continue to pay no more than 12% of the total cost of health benefits, although changes to benefit packages can be utilized to stay within these limits. The House proposed rates are \$758 per employee per month for FY2010 and \$793 per employee per month for FY2011.
- **Retirement contributions** for employees and employers are reduced. TRS and PERS Employer retirement contributions are reduced to the following rates:
  1. PERS: 5.56%
  2. TRS: 6.68%
- No general **salary increases** are provided to any employee groups (except standard step increases earned by classified employees). There is traditional language that permits increases provided for normally occurring promotions and increases related to faculty and staff retention, to the extent permitted by ESSB-5460 (Belt

Tightening Bill). We believe the reference to the Belt-tightening bill means that pay freezes remain in effect until February of 2010.

- Like the Senate, the House essentially wipes out the Customized Training Program and the funds used for Exceptional Faculty Awards. The House doesn't take these actions until FY2011; the Senate does it in the current year.
- The House also transfers \$18.5 million out of the system's building fee account to the General Fund. (This also happened to all of the universities.)

#### Financial Aid

- Financial Aid: State Need Grant funding is increased commensurate with tuition increases. The existing 70% of median family income threshold is retained for State Need Grant eligibility (Governor proposed lowering this to 65% of MFI, Senate retained at 70% MFI).

The following amendments of importance to the CTC system were adopted by the House Ways and Means Committee (system-wide email 04/08/09):

- 1) All higher education enrollment targets are removed (Kagi);
- 2) The earlier language about creating part-time to full-time faculty conversion plans is removed (Ross);
- 3) Wait lists must be adopted in nursing programs and each year 50% of new program admits must come from the wait list (Cody);
- 4) SBCTC must award a new applied baccalaureate degree in Interior Design to a community or technical college by July 1, 2009, subject to HECB program approval (Haigh);
- 5) A requirement that SBCTC facilitate the development of University Centers in the Kitsap Region by allocating 30 FTES (existing) to Olympic College. Olympic College must coordinate with Peninsula College for future baccalaureate programs in the region. This is the same language found in the Senate budget proposal (Haigh);
- 6) Colleges are not required to mail course catalogs; colleges shall consider lower cost alternatives (Hunt);
- 7) A fine-tuning of the Washington State Quality Award statute that amends the existing law to narrowly define what a "similar organization" means: they are organizations composed of examiners qualified to perform full Baldrige Assessments. In other words, the Washington State Quality Award application exemption that was provided by OFM to institutions of higher education relied on current statutory language that allowed OFM to decide alternative assessments based on "similar organizations". OFM had determined that regional accrediting bodies were "similar organizations", thus the exemption for higher education institutions. This budget proviso now makes it clear that only organizations that perform full Baldrige assessments can be construed as "similar organizations". Put simply, if this passes in final form, and the Governor signs the budget with this proviso included, the colleges would once again be required to carry out the Washington State Quality Award requirement (Linville);
- 8) A technical amendment to restore \$1.1 million in system wide cuts next biennium (Linville).

#### **SBCTC-IT UPDATES**

**Degree Audit Project:** <http://www.cis.ctc.edu/wctc/DegreeAudit/index.htm>

**Go Forward Project:** <http://www.collegiateproject.com/SBCTC/>

**FAM Project:** <http://www.cis.ctc.edu/wctc/fas/FAM/FAMresources.htm>